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BINNACLE JIM TELLS HOW HE AND BILL SEWED THEMSELVES UP



1. "They's a lot o' drudgery on shipboard as you might know, but fer a seaman-th' most un-excitin' work in mendin' sails. I recommender once when th' old 'Dancin' Sal' 'ad been through a bit o' a blow. Old Walrus set Bill an' me to work at that very thing, an' th' idee occurred t' me all at a flash t' rig up one o' them make-believe el'phants what you see on th' theatre stage ashore.



2. "Bill fell in 'ith th' notion right off, an' as th' cap'tin' was snoozin' below decks we started in, an' arter cuttin' an' fittin' fer an hour or so you'd be astonished, as wus Bill an' me, t' see th' result. Yes, sir, a reg'lar el'phant an' when we got inside you couldn't tell th' difference; ears, trunk an' all 'ith a bit o' rope's end tail as a finishin' touch.



3. "Th' idee o' course wus t' scare ol' man Walrus out o' a year's growth, an' we figgered on rehearsin' awhile about th' deck afore we give th' big show. The sea wus calm, but th' weather so uncommon hot, it bein' off Borneo, 'at Bill got t' complainin' about th' air supply, so we jest stood there while Davy Jones patched us in with a sail needle an' made things snug, general.



4. "We 'us all in high spirits, 'cept poor Bill. Bill 'us th' mizzin' end o' th' entertainment, an' took on dredful at not havin' a look-out. He kep' a-talkin' o' an' albatross wot he'd killed one day, by accident, an' predicted 'at no good 'ud come o' th' scheme, when all o' a sudden who should pop out from behind th' deck-house but old Walrus.



5. "Well, sir, you'd a thunk he 'us froze solid th' way he stood an' stared at us, (I mean't say th' el'phant). When he started t' rub his eyes I give Bill th' signal t' charge, an' arter we caught step once we went clatterin' over th' deck fer th' skipper like th' Old Harry hisself. It 'ud make you laugh t' see th' way that ship's master showed us his heels



6. "Round an' round th' deck we went an' th' old cap gettin' redder in th' face an' breathin' harder all th' time. I could feel Bill commencing t' wobble hisself, when jest as we wus about t' overhaul th' skipper, what does he do but jump, sudden-like, behind th' main mast an' plump we went into th' thing an' wus stove up like an egg-shell as th' feller says.



7. "Well, sir, that ended th' fun on our side, fer Bill, who'd had that albatross thing on his mind all-along, an' had got not an' tired o' bein' suffocated that way in th' sail, flew off o' his handle an' commenced t' lay th' blame on me fer runnin' afoul o' th' mast. One word led t' another 'til we fer-got all about th' cap'tin' an' had a free fight right there in that bag.



8. "They's no tellin' which o' us 'ud a got th' best o' th' argment, fer all o' a sudden we got a whack over th' head 'ith a belayin' pin an' heard th' cap'tin's voice like a fog-horn as he came bearin' down on us. We 'us caught, as they say ashore, here, with th' goods on, an' ef ever two mortal seamen wus took at a disadvantage, it wus no less than me an' Bill.



9. "I've suffered shipwreck an' starvation an' bear cast adrift in an open boat, an' can usually take my medicine 'ithout grumblin', but swoller me by a shark, if I ever volin-teeer t' sew myself in a bag again. But, as Bill said arterward, we'd had th' daylight's skeered out o' old Cap Walrus fer a while anyway."

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